

What are phrases and clauses?

The different types of phrases and clauses and how you should use them.



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What is a phrase?

Does not make
sense on its
own

Does not
contain a
subject

Does not
contain a verb



What is a clause?

Makes sense on its own



The fire was crackling.

Contains a subject



The **fire** was crackling.

Subject

Has only got one verb

The fire was **crackling**.

Verb



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Have an object

A clause
could...

Be active or
passive

The dragon **ate** the Princess.

Subject

Verb

Object

Active

(The subject is doing
something)

Passive

(The subject is having
something done to it)

The **dragon** ate the **Princess**.

Subject

Object

The **Princess** was eaten by the **dragon**.

Subject

Object



Main clause

- A simple sentence with only one subject, object and verb:

The cat is sitting on the mat.



Subordinate clause

- Subordinate clauses are less important clauses.
- They do not make sense on their own.
- Subordinate clause often start with a conjunction (when, although, so, because, before, after, if).



Subordinate clause examples

- The cat is sitting on the mat because it is tired.
- So that the library was tidy, the books were carefully arranged on the shelves.



Relative clause

- Relative clauses are also sometimes known as adjective clauses.
- They begin with a relative pronoun (that, which, whose, whom, who).
- Relative clauses tell us more about the noun or pronoun in the main clause.



Relative clause examples

- Neil Armstrong, who was a famous astronaut, was the first man to walk on the moon.
- I found some old books which were hidden at the back of the loft.



Draw lines to match each group of words with the term that describes it.

, who scares the postman away,

subordinate clause

a tiny, helpless kitten

main clause

a team of firefighters arrived

phrase



Underline the subordinate clause in each sentence below.

- When she was standing next to her brother, Anita looked very tall.
- Even though he had little patience, Matthew enjoyed chess.
- Helen's skills were good although she had not been playing for that long.



Rewrite the sentence below,
adding a subordinate clause
to make it a complex sentence.

The puppy started to bark.



For each sentence, put a tick to show whether the main or subordinate clause is underlined.

Sentence	Main clause	Subordinate clause
<u>I have violin lessons</u> , although I have not been playing for very long.		
<u>If you want to improve</u> , you must practise a lot.		
I practise every weekend, <u>even when it's in the school holidays</u> .		



Label the parts of the sentence below as either a phrase (P) or a clause (C).

Despite the bad weather,

the man headed out into the woods,

leaving his cottage behind.



Tick one box to show which part
of the sentence is the relative
clause.

The table which is made of oak is now black with age.

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Which sentence starts with a subordinate clause?

- Elena, who was good at science, wanted to be a vet.
- Even though it was difficult, she was determined to succeed.
- Elena loved all kinds of animals, especially horses.
- She wanted a dog because she enjoyed caring for animals.

